Steel pilferage

2224. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem which appeared in 'Ranchi Express' Hindi Daily of Ranchi of July 9th, 1989 (on page 4) under the caption "Seven truck loads of steel seized";

(b) whether it is a fact that while clearing Bokaro Steel Plan of unusable scrap, lot of saleable steel is alsd taken away along with it;

(c) what are the findings in this case; and

(d) whether some other cases of steel pilferage like this come to light during the last three years; if so, the details thereof and what steps Government intend to take to stop this theft?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The case is under investigation by the state police.

(d) No, Sir.

Memorandum by demonstrator to Doordarshan and Akashwani Authorities

2225. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to reply to Starred Qestuion 76 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st July, 1989 and state:

(a) whether the demonstrators have had submitted any memorandum to Doordarshan and Akhashwani authorities; and

(b) if so, what were the main demands of the demonstrators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MIIISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (PROF K. K. TEWARY): (a) Yes, Sir. The demonstrators submitted memorandum at some All India Radio and Doordarshan centres.

(b) The main demands of the demonstrators were—

(1) to maintain objectivity and impartiality in the programmes of the electronic media;

(2) to provide just and adequate coverage to various activities of different politcal parties; and

(3) to grant autonomy to Doordarshan and All India Radio.

Misuse of official media

2226. DR. BAPU KALDATE:

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several leading newspapers and leaders of men have complained about the misuse of the official Media Doordarshan and Akashvani;

(b) if so, what are the main complaints of these men and papers;

(c) whether Government propose to investigate these complants; and

(d) whether there is any move to give autonomy to the official electronic media?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (PROF. K. K. TEWARY): (a) and (b) Certain newspapers and opposition leaders sometimes complain about the alleged partisan attitude of Akashvani and Doordarshan in their coverage.

(c) These complaints have been investigated and were found to be baseless.

(d) Both All India Radio and Doordarshan already enjoy function autonomy in all professional aspects in their day-to-day working.